

TRANSMITTAL FORM

Application Serial Number	09/977,971
Filing Date	October 17, 2001
First Named Inventor	Forde
Group Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	V. Bui
Attorney Docket No.	NMT-002
Confirmation No.	4305
Patent No.	Not applicable
Issue Date	Not applicable

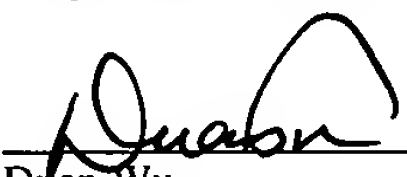
ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response to Restriction Requirement (10 pgs. and 2 pgs. of Exhibit A)
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<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Power of Attorney
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<input type="checkbox"/> Executed Declaration and Power of Attorney for Utility or Design Patent Application
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement
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<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Correction (in duplicate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Appeal to Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Brief (in triplicate)
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy of Limited Recognition (1 pg) |
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Respectfully submitted,

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373/
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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. NMT-002
(9134/6)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Forde et al. CONFIRMATION NO.: 4305
SERIAL NO.: 09/977,971 GROUP NO.: 3731
FILING DATE: October 17, 2001 EXAMINER: V. Bui
TITLE: Over-the-Wire Interlock Attachment/Detachment Mechanism

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and any document(s) referred to as enclosed herein, is/are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 on this 23rd day of August, 2004.


Diane Racicot

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith is/are:

1. Transmittal Form (1 pg.);
2. Response to Restriction Requirement (10 pgs. and 2 pgs. of Exhibit A);
3. Copy of Limited Recognition (1 pg); and a
4. Return Receipt Postcard.



PATENT
Atty. Docket No. NMT-002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Forde *et al.* CONFIRMATION NO.: 4305
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/977,971 ART UNIT: 3732
FILING DATE: October 17, 2001 EXAMINER: V. Bui
TITLE: Over-the-Wire Interlock Attachment/Detachment Mechanism

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office action (the "Office action") mailed from the U.S. Patent Office on July 21, 2004, which imposes a Restriction Requirement on the present claims. Because the shortened one-month statutory period falls on a Saturday, and this Response is filed on the following Monday, Applicants believe that no fees are due. Should Applicants be in error, and additional time for responding to this Office action is required, please consider this paper as a conditional petition for an extension of time and conditional authorization to charge fees for this submission to Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.